

**Minutes of the
North Carolina State Board of Education
Education Building
301 N. Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-2825
April 3, 2013**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met after the Board Committees concluded their work and the following members were present:

Wayne McDevitt, Vice Chairman
Dan Forest, Lt. Governor
Gregory Alcorn
William Cobey
A.L. "Buddy" Collins
Kevin Howell

Olivia Oxendine
Marcella Savage
John Tate
Rebecca Taylor
Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent
Diane Frost, Superintendent Advisor

Darcy Grimes, Teacher of the Year Advisor
Tyronna Hooker, Teacher of the Year Advisor

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

State Board of Education Vice Chairman Wayne McDevitt called the Wednesday session of the April 2013 State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. Vice Chairman McDevitt noted that the Board had just completed its Committee meetings for the day, and will hold the official State Board meeting on Thursday morning, at which time the Board will vote on action items.

Prior to reading the Ethics Statement, Vice Chairman McDevitt explained that the day began with the swearing-in of six new State Board of Education members after confirmation by the General Assembly. The Vice Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr. William (Bill) Cobey, At-Large Member; Ms. Rebecca Taylor, District 1; and Mr. Gregory Alcorn, District 7 whose terms will expire in 2019. He then introduced Mr. A.L. (Buddy) Collins, District 5; Ms. Marcella Savage, At-Large Member; and Dr. Olivia Oxendine, District 4 whose terms will expire in 2021.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Vice Chairman McDevitt reminded Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. He asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. There were no conflicts of interest communicated at this time. The Vice Chairman

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then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to the attention of the Vice Chairman. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Vice Chairman McDevitt set the context for the meeting by explaining to all present and those listening that the election of officers of this Board typically occurs in September on even-numbered years. However, in anticipation of the changes that might result from the election, those rules were suspended to allow the new Governor a role in that selection and election of the new officers.

Vice Chairman McDevitt called on Lt. Governor Dan Forest to make a nomination for State Board Chairman. Lt. Governor Forest nominated Mr. William Cobey.

Upon motion made by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. William Cobey as Chairman of the North Carolina State Board of Education.

Upon election, Vice Chairman McDevitt relinquished the gavel to Chairman Cobey to begin his service as Chairman.

The first order of business for Chairman Cobey was to call for a motion for Vice Chairman.

Upon motion by Mr. Gregory Alcorn, and seconded by Dr. Olivia Oxendine, the Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. A.L. Collins as Vice Chairman of the North Carolina State Board of Education.

Closed Session

Chairman Cobey asked for a motion to convene the Board in closed session.

Upon motion made by Mr. A.L. Collins, and seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to convene in closed session to consult with its attorneys on attorney-client privileged matters; and to consider the handling of the following cases: Arnita Miles v. Vance County Board of Education and NC Department of Public Instruction; Veronica Patterson-Sanford v. Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and NC Department of Public Instruction; and NC Learns, Inc. v. NC State Board of Education.

Following adjournment of the Closed Session, Chairman Cobey requested a motion to adjourn from Open Session.

Upon motion made by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the Board voted unanimously to recess the State Board of Education meeting until Thursday, April 4, at 9:00 a.m.

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April 4, 2013**

The North Carolina State Board of Education met and the following members were present:

William Cobey, Chairman	Wayne McDevitt
A.L. “Buddy” Collins, Vice Chairman	Olivia Oxendine
Dan Forest, Lt. Governor	Marcella Savage
Janet Cowell, State Treasurer	John Tate
Gregory Alcorn	Rebecca Taylor
Kevin Howell	Patricia Willoughby

Also present were:

June St. Clair Atkinson, State Superintendent	Tyronna Hooker, Teacher of the Year Advisor
Diane Frost, Superintendent Advisor	Darcy Grimes, Teacher of the Year Advisor
Patrice Faison, Principal of the Year Advisor	Madison Bell, Student Advisor

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION

State Board Chairman William Cobey called the Thursday session of the April 2013 State Board of Education meeting to order and declared the Board in official session. He welcomed onsite visitors, online listeners, and Twitter followers to the meeting, and reminded the audience that the Board held its committee meetings on Wednesday and today will vote on action items and receive reports on other topics.

Chairman Cobey explained that the State Board of Education is convened today with six new Board members who were confirmed by the Legislature and sworn in before the committee meetings began yesterday in the State Board Room. Chairman Cobey introduced new members: Mr. A.L. Collins, District 5; Ms. Rebecca Taylor, District 1; Mr. Gregory Alcorn, District 7, Dr. Olivia Oxendine, District 4; and Ms. Marcella Save, At-Large Member. Chairman Cobey thanked Governor McCrory for their appointments and the General Assembly for their confirmations.

Prior to beginning the work of the Board, Chairman Cobey noted the absence of Board member Reginald Kenan who had pressing work commitments.

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chairman Cobey reminded Board members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. He asked if members of the Board knew of any conflict of interest or any appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before them during this meeting. Board member Collins recused himself from discussion and voting on LFI 1. Chairman Cobey also noted that during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday, Board member Howell indicated that he would recuse himself from TCP 5. The Chairman then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to the attention of the Chairman. It would then be their duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

Board member John Tate was recognized to lead the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Cobey asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 6-7, 2013, State Board of Education meetings.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

Mr. John Tate made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 6-7, 2013, State Board of Education meetings. Seconded by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

➤ Presentation of ACT Awards - College and Career Readiness Campaign

Following Chairman Cobey's introduction of these awards, which included award criteria, State Superintendent Atkinson explained that North Carolina is one of seven states (others are Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky and Wisconsin) participating in the campaign's inaugural year, which celebrates achievement and creates awareness around the goal of college and career readiness for all.

The College and Career Readiness Campaign awards recognize – across the education and workforce continuum – exemplary college and career readiness efforts of a high school student, a high school, a community college and an employer.

State Superintendent Atkinson introduced Mr. Scott Montgomery (Vice-President of ACT) who presented the awards honoring this year's exemplars. The presentations were photographed.

- ❖ **Student Award Winner: Ms. Jaquesha Stokes** (Senior at Mt. Tabor High School, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.)
Ms. Stokes is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keon Stokes. She was nominated by Mr. David Naff (Guidance Counselor at Mt. Tabor High School) for exemplary achievement. Ms. Stokes is an honor student and a scholar athlete playing on the women's varsity basketball team. A cancer survivor, Ms. Stokes has an indomitable spirit that is contagious. A fighter in every sense of the word, Ms. Stokes exemplifies the total student package dedicated to achieving excellence in every task she tackles.
- ❖ **High School Award Winner: Parkland High School** (Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools). Dr. Tim Lee (Principal, Parkland High School) and Dr. Don Martin (Superintendent, Winston-Salem/Forsyth County) accepted the award. Ms. Carol Montague-Davis nominated Parkland for this extraordinary achievement. With more than 1200 students and more than 74% of them receiving free or reduced price lunch, Parkland embodies what is right with our public schools. Partnering with the United Way and Wake Forest University, Parkland High School's academic achievement is making tremendous strides. Using Silent Sustained Reading and other strategies, Parkland's EOC proficiency has improved significantly, as well as VoCATS proficiency and the graduation rate. It is the only high school in Forsyth County that offers the prestigious IB Diploma program.
- ❖ **Community College Winner: Edgecombe Community College (ECC).** Dr. Debbie Lamm, President of ECC, accepted the award. To connect skill sets learned in the classroom with the workplace, ECC developed a program with Edgecombe County Public Schools called "Get an Edge Up." The program offers WorkKeys to high school, college, and GED students. Over a three-year period, 70% have earned a Certificate of Career Readiness. CRCs are awarded at commencement exercises. A WorkKeys profiler has been on staff since 1998. WorkKeys skills training has been conducted with local businesses for the past eight years, and over 90 profiles have been completed for local and regional employers.
- ❖ **Employer Winner: Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC).** Dr. Keith Mackie, Vice President of Instruction, accepted the award. CVCC is an innovative, comprehensive community college that fosters an environment focused on academic excellence, globalization and diversity, economic and workforce development, and student and community engagement. CVCC was one of three recipients in the country by the Kauffman Foundation to pilot an entrepreneurship education program called Innovation Fund America. Dr. Garrett Hinshaw is the President of Catawba Valley Community College and he cannot be here because of a commitment to a prior engagement.

Superintendent Atkinson concluded the presentation by announcing that these award recipients will compete at the national level, which will conclude with a gala in Washington, DC, celebrating the national winners. She thanked Mr. Montgomery for traveling from Iowa to make these award presentations.

KEY INITIATIVES REPORTS AND DISCUSSION

➤ /Race to the Top (RttT) Update – Mr. Adam Levinson (Director, Race to the Top Program)

Setting the context for his report, Mr. Levinson explained that North Carolina competed against 41 other applicants in 2010 for the RttT grant. North Carolina was one of 12 grant recipients (11 states and the District of Columbia). The \$400 million received has enabled North Carolina to push forward an agenda that the State Board had set some years before RttT for comprehensive school remodeling. Mr. Levinson pointed out that the Superintendent's Report contains a detailed monthly progress update on activities that cut across the entire RttT effort. There are approximately 15 different initiatives within the RttT program. He noted that the monthly updates (from the past three years) are included on DPI's RttT website. Mr. Levinson stated that these updates are a key part of North Carolina's efforts to be transparent about RttT activities and progress. Mr. Levinson also noted that Board members can be connected to several annual and bi-annual reports, which have been submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) and the General Assembly. These reports include information about all of the goals and objectives as well as progress updates.

In closing comments, Mr. Levinson reported that on April 15-16, the Department will host the USED for its annual site visit to monitor North Carolina's progress for Year 3 of 4. Board members were invited to participate in those conversations with USED. He encouraged those interested in participating to contact the Board office. In response to Chairman Cobey's question, Mr. Levinson explained that during the site visit, USED officials will also visit two school districts and a charter school to talk about how the Department is doing in support of the districts.

In response to Board member McDevitt's question about sustainability, Mr. Levinson explained that the Department has been involved in a number of conversations with the General Assembly fiscal staff (at their request due to interest expressed by members) about lessons learned and what it would take to continue some of the promising programs. He explained that the agency has filed a bill that lays out some of the promising initiatives worth consideration for funding by the General Assembly. The Department has made the point that there is no obligation for the state to fund these programs. Instead, these programs have been highlighted as funding opportunities where the state can leverage this federal investment that has been used as start-up money to create infrastructure that they can continue. A brief discussion occurred about the bill being in the second year of the biennium. Mr. Levinson explained that the RttT funding runs out in September 2014; however, USED recently released guidelines for a no-cost extension, which the Department will most likely take advantage of since some programs had several delays. Mr. Levinson clarified that the no-cost extension does not include additional money – the Department would ask to use the remaining grant money over a fifth year to complete some deliverables that have been delayed over the course of the grant. Mr. Levinson explained that Home Base was a good example of a program that had experienced some delays and would benefit from an additional year to strengthen implementation. He added that there are some stringent requirements that the Department would have to meet to justify the no-cost extension.

Addressing Board member McDevitt's question about sustainability more extensively, State Superintendent Atkinson shared that the Education Appropriations Committee asked the Department to present the priorities of the State Board; as a part of that presentation, we included some of the promising practices from RttT. As such, the Department identified the State Board's goals and priorities to increase teacher salaries, reduce the adjustment reductions, and to ask for funding to implement the

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General Assembly's priorities in statutes for which there are no dollars. Mr. McDevitt added that occasionally there is redistribution of unused monies from other states at the end of these special grants; he suggested that the Department watch carefully for these opportunities.

Dr. Oxendine asked for a synopsis of the RttT initiatives. Mr. Levinson stated that the most recent report to the General Assembly provides detailed information about each initiative and that he would share that report with Board members. A brief discussion occurred about the upcoming evaluation by USED. Built into RttT is an initiative that relates to evaluation. He explained that an array of evaluation teams (partnership between NC State, UNC-Greensboro and UNC-Chapel Hill) monitor each part of our implementation and provide ongoing feedback. At the end of the RttT grant, the partnership will provide a final report about accomplishments and promising practices.

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Teacher of the Year Summit Planned April 12

The first Teacher of the Year Summit will take place on Friday, April 12, 2013, at the Radisson Hotel, Research Triangle Park. More than 150 teachers representing their school districts as "Teachers of the Year" for the past two years have registered to attend.

Ms. Darcy Grimes and Ms. Tyronna Hooker, the current and the past year North Carolina Teachers of the Year, will co-chair this event to bring together the best of the best to exchange ideas, collaborate, and participate in current professional topics of interest. The theme, "This is What We Believe" will be highlighted. Teachers' ideas will be gathered and shared in a question and answer dialogue at the end of the day. Board members were invited to participate.

State Superintendent's Graduation Task Force Convenes

On Tuesday, March 26, 2013, members of the State Superintendent's Graduation Task Force met in Greensboro to discuss North Carolina's graduation rate progress. Three superintendents representing small, medium, and large LEAs (Dr. Chip Carringer from Graham County, Dr. Mary Ellis from Union County, and Mr. Maurice "Mo" Green from Guilford County) shared their ideas that have enabled their districts to experience success. They shared strategies and the programs implemented to engage their students and increase graduation rates. Members of the task force asked questions to examine further what made their efforts so successful.

The task force also heard about and discussed success stories that have helped to improve the graduation rates of various subgroups, particularly Hispanic/Latinos and African-Americans.

Superintendents' Quarterly Meeting - Governor McCrory Meets with Local Superintendents

Governor Pat McCrory met with local superintendents during the Superintendents' Quarterly held in Raleigh on March 19. McCrory fielded questions on topics ranging from teacher salaries to school choice and expressed interest in meeting with the superintendents on a regular basis.

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Special Honors and Awards

➤ **Quick Wins NCAGT Advocacy Award**

Deputy Chief Academic Officer Angela Quick has been named this year's recipient of the North Carolina Association for the Gifted & Talented's James J. Gallagher Advocacy Award. The award is presented to an individual inside or outside the field who has been a consistent advocate on behalf of gifted students and a voice for supporting gifted education in North Carolina.

#NCed Chat Debuts with 109 Tweeting Participants

The Department of Public Instruction has launched #NCedChat, which provides a novel way for educators statewide to interact together once every other week in a public Twitter conversation around topics that pertains to their professional interests.

The first such conversation occurred March 26 and drew 109 Tweeting participants, enough to trend at number 1 in the world on Twitter for about 45 minutes. Future topics include Learner Centered Schools and Classrooms, Information and Technology Essential Standards, and Professional Learning Communities.

Visit <https://www.smore.com/gg3f> to view an online flyer about these upcoming events.

Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement – Engaging North Carolina in Transforming 21st Century Teaching and Learning

The Department of Public Instruction conducted its annual Collaborative Conference for Student Achievement in Greensboro March 25 through 27, drawing more than 1,7000 educators from across North Carolina.

Topics included:

- Identifying and Overcoming Obstacles to Student Achievement
- Using High Expectations to Drive High Graduation Rates
- Teaching techniques and technology that promote stronger performance, such as flipping the classroom and Dibbles and EVAAS.

Recent Activities of the State Superintendent

☐ Attended and/or delivered remarks/keynote address at

- Southwest Education Alliance Council Meeting, Charlotte
- Mooresville South Iredell Developers Council, Mooresville
- Wake County Public Schools Pieces of Gold student performances, Raleigh,
- Terry Sanford High School Academic Excellence Award Ceremony, Fayetteville
- Math Counts competition, Durham
- Council of Chief State School Officers' Legislative Conference, Washington, DC
- School Safety Center News Conference, Apex
- Smarter Balanced Collaboration Conference—Chiefs' Meeting, Arlington, VA
- Braswell Lecture on Education, Mount Olive College, Mount Olive
- Hispanic Educational Summit 2013, Raleigh
- College Bound Day, Bugg Elementary, Raleigh

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Visited

- Career Academy and Technical School (CATS), Troutman
- Reach Out and Read program site visit, Duke Health Center, Durham
- Page High School, Greensboro

RttT Monthly Highlights of Activities Completed

RttT Management (includes Project Management, Budget, and Communications):

- Provided monthly RttT status report to State Board of Education (SBE), 3/7/13
- Briefed Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education on RttT initiatives and funding (3/12/13)
- Submitted second of four semi-annual reports on RttT implementation progress due (per S.L. 2012-77) to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (3/15/13)
- Submitted Year 3 RttT annual site-visit materials to USED
- Continued approval of Local Education Agency (LEA)/Charter School amended Detailed Scopes of Work (DSW); approved four amended DSWs as of March 11; have approved 120 LEA/Charter School amended DSWs since 7/1/12
- Continued conducting LEA/Charter School formal site visits as part of the RttT Monitoring process (final three to be conducted by 3/31/13)
- Continued planning third round of READY Outreach meetings; established that they will be conducted via webinar in April 2013, with focus around Home Base, new accountability model, and new assessments
- Continued working with Home Base vendors and NCDPI PowerSchool transition team to ensure successful launch of Home Base (including PowerSchool and Instructional Improvement System components)

Standards & Assessments:

- Continued to finalize the Honors Implementation Guide based on the new Common Core State Standards and the NC Essential Standards
- Presented a *Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards Awareness Session* at the NC WISE Symposium to discuss how the new content standards will be involved in the transition to Home Base
- Conducted ACT Alignment of Content Standards Workshop for Curriculum & Instruction and Educator Effectiveness (formerly Educator Recruitment and Development) staff so they will be able to address questions regarding the alignment between the ACT and our new content standards (CCSS & NCES)

Data Systems to Improve Instruction:

- Continued developing and implementing the Home Base Communications Plan:
 - Planning and delivering communications for LEAs/Charters around Tech Readiness
 - Planning communications for Home Base training for both SIS and IIS components
 - Delivering updates about Home Base through regional READY meetings, meetings with user and stakeholder groups, and instructional and technical webinars
 - Speaking about Home Base to groups such as Superintendents and Technical Directors, at Regional Roundtables, and in districts across the state
 - Updating the Home Base website, as needed
 - Sending out a biweekly update on Home Base to teachers, principals, superintendents, user groups, technical staff, LEA staff, RESA groups and more

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- Continued efforts to identify, tag, and align to standards content for Home Base; worked with other states, including New York, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Georgia, and Ohio, and other external organizations, such as the United States Department of Education (USED), Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME), CEDS, Achieve, and Creative Commons, to identify common metadata tags and values to better facilitate efficient cross-state sharing of resources; continued rubrics training for Curriculum and Instruction staff
- Prepared to populate the Learning Object Repository (LOR) with tagged content; on track to get the initial import of items out of Center for Urban Affairs and Community Services (CUACS) systems and into the LOR by April 1, 2013
- Posted the Data Guide on the Home Base website (www.ncpublicschools.org/homebase)
- Continued work on the second round of Data Modules; the modules, along with the Data Guide, are designed to help educators better know how to use the data that will be available in Home Base
- Continued work with the Shared Learning Collaborative, now rebranded as inBloom, and Guilford County Schools on the Shared Learning Infrastructure (SLI) pilot
- Continued working closely with both IIS vendors on discovery, design, and system configuration decisions; engaged broad cross section of NCDPI and LEA personnel in the decisions
- Refined vendor work breakdown structures to reflect delivery of the curriculum and instruction functions, classroom and benchmark assessment functions, and teacher evaluation functions by July 8, 2013

Great Teachers & Principals:

- Completed assessment blueprints, item generation. Released the constructed response items from the fall MSLs/Common Exams to help teachers better understand the format of constructed response questions, reinforce the importance of embedding rigor and higher order thinking into daily instruction, and support teachers in preparing their students for these types of assessment questions
- Held three webinars (February 28, March 7, and March 12) to assist districts in planning for implementation of the MSLs/Common Exams; LEA representatives were featured during the webinars to share best practices from actual fall 2012 implementation
- Began development of the items for the new Common Exams scheduled for launch in the fall of 2013
- Began analyzing data from self-assessments and mid-year reviews for the validation study of the new evaluation instruments for instructional technology facilitators, school library media coordinators, school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers
- Began collecting student work through the online portal for the pilot analysis of student work process as the Measure of Student Learning for teachers of the Arts, Healthful Living, World Languages, and the Extended Content Standards
- Presented two policies to the State Board of Education for consideration at their March meeting: one on the structure of performance bonuses in lowest-achieving schools for 2012-13, and one on the growth factors to include in standards six and eight in the educator and principal evaluation systems in 2012-13
- Continued administrative internships for Northeast Regional Leadership Academy (NELA) Cohort 2, Sandhills Leadership Academy (SLA) Cohort 2 and Piedmont Triad Leadership Academy (PTLA) Cohort 2 (internships will be completed by 6/30/13)
- Continued executive leadership training for NELA RLA Cohort 3

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- Continued recruitment and screening for Cohort 3 of SLA and PTLA (candidates will be selected by 6/30/13)
- Continued recruitment for 2013 TFA corps members (candidates will be selected by 4/30/13)

NC Virtual Public Schools:

- Posted job postings for content developers and content reviewers for the new STEM courses on the NCDPI website; a review of applicants will follow in March 2013
- Created a “beta” iBook of a module from the Forensic Science Course for students and teachers to use when they cannot connect to wireless internet networks
- Delivered iPad cases to pilot LEAs, enabling the students to take iPads home to assist them in completing assignments and activities for STEM courses
- Greene Central High School streamed via Google Hangout their Grand Challenge presentations done as a part of the STEM courses; this was a trial to see how well the system worked; Greene County believes that streaming will enable practitioners to view the presentations and provide feedback to the students in the future

Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools (TALAS):

- Completed Comprehensive Needs Assessments (CNA) at:

Bearfield Primary, Hertford Early College, Ahoskie Elementary, CS Brown High School and Hertford County High School in Hertford County Schools

District CNA for Durham Public Schools

- Continued work on hiring for RttT positions:
- School Transformation Coach for Warren County expected to be hired by the end of February
- Identified interim support for selected schools/districts until hiring process is complete for permanent positions; continued assignment process for deployment of new coaching staff in served schools
- Continued PD and Coaching for currently served schools/districts
- Continued collaboration and coordination with Great Teachers & Principals project team in the implementation of the Northeast Leadership Academy, Sandhills Leadership Academy and Piedmont Triad Leadership Academy
- Continued providing coaching and support to North Carolina Teacher Corps and the New Teacher Support Program as they continue working with TALAS schools and districts
- Continued working collaboratively to provide shared schools with the best possible assistance utilizing School Transformation Coaches and Priority School Quality Reviewers; more than 50% of the Priority Schools are schools on the RttT TALAS list
- Held Professional Development for School Leaders Session 9, which concentrated on the vital transformation component of recruiting and retaining qualified teachers; main focus of the day was guest speaker Tim Daley and TNTP’s article “The Irreplaceables;” also, Bethel Elementary School’s Principal Jill Barker, whose school just won the National Title I Distinguished School Award, spoke to the approximately 200 school leaders about her recruitment and retention strategies in a rural school district

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- Continued planning for April's Professional Development for School Leaders Session 10, which will dissect components 9 and 10 of Transformation/Turnaround which relate to family and community engagement and as schools partnering to provide social-emotional and community-oriented services and supports
- Continued planning for March's three regional workshops that will be conducted by Marstrats and will include HR Directors and central office personnel that are involved in the recruiting and retaining of educators at the 38 districts that contain TALAS schools
- Scheduled a conference call for March 22 for the 38 superintendents whose districts are part of this initiative to review progress and strategy for remainder of grant with the State Superintendent and Director of DST
- Continued working with NC ITS to award Identity and Access Management Request For Proposal (RFP)
- Continued discussions with NC ITS to move Voice-over Internet Phone (VoIP) and Mobile Device Management RFPs for bidder response
- Completed proof of concept work for performance management solutions
- Began work with NCSU TOPS to test content and metadata tags

NC Education Cloud:

- Continued working with NC ITS to award Identity and Access Management contract
- Continued discussions with NC ITS to move Mobile Device Management (MDM) Requests For Proposal (RFP) for bidder response; further investigating alternative options for the MDM procurement in the event that the MDM contract is further delayed
- Worked with NC ITS to provide an alternate procurement mechanism (convenience contract) for VoIP services
- Continued effort to migrate workflows regarding NCSU TOPS content to the new NC Learning Object Repository (LOR) platform
- Met with customers of one predominate finance and business software platform (ISIS) regarding their Windows-based platform and a cloud-based platform they may pilot with charter schools
- Provided information assistance to the General Assembly regarding legislation that would enhance the ongoing sustainability of the Cloud initiative; two of four pieces of related legislation have currently passed in the House chamber

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM):

- Continued development of 2nd-Year Courses. Curriculum designers are working to finalize multi-media components and copyright clearance for the first courses. File formats have been refined to prepare first course for teacher review (NC School of Science and Mathematics, or NCSSM)
- Provided one day of leadership coaching for principal at Northeast Regional School (Anchor) and eight days of leadership coaching at eight of the 16 Affinity Network schools (NC New Schools)
- Provided 18 days of instructional coaching at the four Anchor Schools (seven days at Early College EAST, two days at Durham City of Medicine Academy, six days at Wake NC State STEM ECHS and three days at the Northeast Regional School) and 61 days of instructional coaching at 15 of the 16 Affinity Network schools (NC New Schools)

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Evaluation:

- Continued administration of third annual statewide Omnibus Survey to teachers and principals; work this month has involved resolving technical issues for participants, monitoring response rates, and following up with low response schools
- Finalized one report: *North Carolina New Teacher Support Program (NC NTSP): First Annual RttT Evaluation Report*
- Presented two reports to NCDPI for review: *Productive Connections: Intervention in Low Performing School Districts by the NCDPI District and School Transformation Division, 2011-12* and *North Carolina Virtual Public School Blended Learning STEM Courses: A Formative Assessment of Initial Implementation*
- Presented findings from the report on Regional Leadership Academies to the State Board of Education at their March meeting
- Analyzed data and completed the initial draft on *The Distribution of Effective Teachers in North Carolina*; submission to NCDPI for initial review targeted for April of 2013

Legislative Update

Superintendent Atkinson recognized Ms. Rachel Beaulieu to provide the legislative update.

Ms. Beaulieu highlighted the following list of recent activity of education-related legislation. She drew attention to a one-page handout, which is also posted on the State Board website. Ms. Beaulieu noted that this list is by no means a comprehensive list of all bills filed related to education. She explained that each Friday during the General Assembly session, she will provide Board members with a Legislative Update, which will provide a more comprehensive overview of education bills filed and activities. Ms. Beaulieu fielded questions about several of the bills. Board member Tate requested Ms. Beaulieu send more specific information to Board members about HB 435 and SB 361. A brief discussion occurred about SB 337 and HB 443 and the possibility of a new Charter School Board compromising the State Board's and Governor's authority. Chairman Cobey noted that it is a Constitutional provision in terms of the veto and composition of the Board in the bill that raises serious concerns. In addition, a brief conversation occurred about the elimination of the existing Public Charter School Advisory Board, i.e., SB 10. Ms. Beaulieu explained that this bill has gone to the Conference Committee and essentially would eliminate what has been referenced as obsolete Boards and Commissions. It has gone through several versions and currently the House and Senate are not agreeing on some of the aspects of SB 10. She explained further that as the bill currently stands, SB 10 would repeal the current Charter Advisory Council. However, as of yesterday, no Committee meeting has been scheduled. A clarifying discussion occurred requiring background checks as well as certification issues in licensure for charter school employees. Board member Tate asked to go on record about his concern for these two issues. In response to Board member Oxendine's question, Ms. Beaulieu explained that if SB 10 passes and the Charter Advisory Council is repealed, that would open the avenue for this newly proposed Public Charter School Board to be enacted. Board member McDevitt stated that if SB 10 passes and SB337 and HB 443 do not, at that point, there is no advisory board and no school board, and the State Board would have to deal with these issues in some manner. State Superintendent Atkinson shared that should this happen, the Department has Plan B about how to move forward, in an expeditious way, recommendations to the State Board of Education about new and existing charters.

Ms. Beaulieu stated that if the Board wants to take a position on any given bill, to let her know and she would work to ensure that the Board's priorities are known during the Session.

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Key Education Bills

HB 435 – School Performance Grades
 SB 361 – Excellent Public Schools Act of 2013
 HB 452/SB 589* - 2013 School Safety Act
 SB 337 – NC Public Charter School Board
 HB 443* - NC Public Charter School Board
 Series of Local Calendar Bills

Other House Bills

HB 146 – Back to Basics (SB 243)
 HB 317- Improve Education for Children Who are Deaf (SB 320)
 HB 464* - Salary Increase for School Employees - (SB 654)
 HB 469* - Additional Budget Flexibility/Public Schools

Other Senate Bills

SB 374 – NC Public Schools Budget Flexibility Act
 SB 516* - Public School Regulatory Reform
 SB 564* - Education Improvement Act of 2013
 SB 569* - Access to Sports/Extracurricular for All Students
 SB 656* - Essential Funding for Public Schools

*New bills filed this/last week

BOARD MEETING AND COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

INFORMATION AGENDA

GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS (Ms. Patricia Willoughby, Chair)

INFORMATION

GCS 2 – High School Math Task Force Update

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # GCS-M-001, GCS-F-002

Presenter(s): Dr. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin (Director, K-12 Curriculum and Instruction)

Description:

Although the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics were adopted in 2010, there are still three different mathematics pathways being used to teach the high school standards during the 2012-13 school year. Therefore, the objective of the High School Math Task Force was to suggest to the Department of Public Instruction how to move forward given the current high school math pathways. As a result, the

High School Math Task Force suggested one pathway with the course names titled Common Core Math I, II, and III, which integrates standards from Number/Operations, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, Modeling, and Probability/Statistics in all three years of high school math. Flexibility would be given to LEAs in their choice of resources, materials, and textbooks. Twelve rationale statements were provided by the High School Math Task Force to support their recommendation:

- Addresses concerns with student mobility
- Uses the same standards, but provides for clear organization of the standards
- Standards progress over three years of instruction; therefore, why not call them the same names
- Prepares students to be globally competitive as intended by the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics
- Better prepares students for their 4th level math, all of which naturally expects students to integrate multiple themes of mathematics
- Presents new course names since previous names promote using old standards and old teaching methods
- Offers alignment with Common Core English/Language Arts I, II, and III
- Aligns with the work of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, which is being designed using the math practice
- Focuses professional development for high school math that is targeted
- Provides clarity regarding the expectations for Common Exams/Measures of Student Learning
- Assists in organizing resources for HomeBase

Since students start out with conceptual math understanding in K-8, it makes sense to keep the conceptual pathway to build on that knowledge throughout high school.

Recommendations:

N/A

Discussion/Comments:

- Prior to recognizing Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin to present this item, GCS Committee Chair Patricia Willoughby noted that this item is a result of feedback from across the state as we looked at the Common Core for Mathematics. She explained that the Face-to-Face Math and Virtual Task Forces were comprised of participants from every region across the state.
- Using a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Pitre-Martin explained that there have been content standards for years in the *North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Mathematics* as well as standards for mathematical practices. Therefore, it was a good time to convene a task force with the objective of moving the work of high school mathematics forward in North Carolina. The Task Force suggested a pathway with the course names titled Common Core I, II, and III, which integrate standards from all of the themes in high school math, i.e., Number/Operations, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, Modeling, and Probability Statistics so students could see how all of the themes connect and use that information for real-world situations.
- Dr. Pitre-Martin explained that for the last couple of years North Carolina has had two mathematics pathways -- traditional and integrated. She shared that a group of school districts across the state asked the Department to create a third pathway that would show more of that integration among the six themes. That said, Dr. Pitre-Martin stated that the Department's math section developed a set of standards for Math I, II, and III.

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- The Task Force was born out of a request from local school districts and charter schools, Institutions of Higher Education and others to simplify the standards and recommend how the current number of pathways could be decreased. She spoke about the tiered involvement of more than 100 individuals, which included face-to-face and virtual participants. Dr. Pitre-Martin presented a timeline of the work of the task force. She explained that the recommendation from the Task Force was to have one pathway – a sequence of standards and an order for the standards that are clear and consistent so that all of the charter schools and districts can use those standards consistently. Dr. Pitre-Martin presented a list of rationale, which includes addressing their top concern of student mobility.
- A brief discussion occurred regarding resources that provide support to the school districts. Dr. Pitre-Martin explained that the Department will also roll-out professional development in every region of the state to work with teachers on the process beginning this summer.
- Dr. Pitre-Martin introduced Ms. Christie Slate (Director of High School Curriculum, Davidson County Schools and co-chair of the task force) to share feedback from the task force as well as next steps.
- Ms. Slate reiterated the rationale for recommending the move to one pathway. She noted that keeping the old name almost promoted the idea that it was okay to keep the old methods of teaching; thus the recommendation to change the course name. She also explained that there is not a textbook that addresses the current standards. Therefore, resources and best practices needed to be pulled together; she provided several examples of best practices. Ms. Slate added that the Department is already working toward this effort and has provided multiple professional development sessions for practitioners.
- Ms. Slate also talked briefly about priority next steps and preparation for educators; for example, revisiting mathematics practices, cooperative learning, and collaborative partnerships among school districts, technology, alternative assessments, and parent awareness. She shared that this information was presented at the Curriculum and Instruction leaders meeting Collaborative Conference/Student Achievement Conference last week, prepared documents with the support of the High School Math Task Force for the April SBE Meeting, and sought partnerships with external partners to develop professional development opportunities for the summer and fall of 2013
- Dr. Pitre-Martin shared a timeline showing how this recommendation would phase in and out.
- A brief discussion occurred about the cost of implementation and resources. Dr. Pitre-Martin noted that digital materials are critically important and the Department has already started that work. She shared that the math section has pulled together many digital resources that the Department is preparing to load into Home Base. Ms. Slate reiterated that schools would have to change resources because the current textbooks do not address the common core standards.
- State Superintendent Atkinson shared that when the State Board of Education adopted the new standards in 2010, subsequent to that the General Assembly required that the school calendar would be for 185 days, and five of those days could be used for professional development. Since 2010, each teacher in the state could receive at least five days of professional development, which is a part of allaying the cost.
- Board member Tate spoke briefly about the Board’s position related to e-Learning to transition within five years to an e-platform.
- There was no further discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Cobey moved to the Consent Agenda, which is reserved for items that generally create little or no debate such as routine appointments, items that come for information purposes only, routine reports, and final approval of reports that the Board has already discussed. Board members have always seen these materials prior to the Board meetings, and may ask that items be removed from the Consent agenda to be discussed on an individual basis. Consent items will be adopted as a whole.

Chairman Cobey noted one item for consideration on the consent agenda. He asked if any Board members wanted to remove the item from the Consent Agenda. Hearing no requests, Chairman Cobey asked for a motion to approve LFI 3 – Charter Amendments for Carter G. Woodson School.

Upon motion by Mr. Wayne McDevitt, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, the Board voted unanimously to approve LFI 3 – Charter Amendments for Carter G. Woodson School, as presented. Vice Chairman A.L. Collins recused himself from the vote.

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT (Vacant, Chair)

CONSENT

LFI 3 – Charter Amendments for Carter G. Woodson School

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-238.29G; SBE Policy # TCS-U-014

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services) and Dr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

Description:

The Charter Schools Act states that "a material revision of the provisions of a charter application shall be made only upon the approval of the State Board of Education." In April 2012, the State Board adopted policy TCS-U-014 prescribing which charter amendments can be approved by the Office of Charter Schools and which ones must be approved by the State Board prior to implementation. An amendment that results in "transferring the charter to another non-profit entity" must be brought to the State Board for consideration.

The Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge is seeking to make several amendments to its charter, and a brief summary of the attachments is provided below:

- Transferring the charter from “Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, Inc.” to “The Carter G. Woodson School, Inc.” This modification would permit the new non-profit board to exercise independence from the prior non-profit and to have a separate board for the charter school. The new non-profit already has its tax exempt status, as required by law, from the IRS.
- A complete revision of the charter school bylaws. This rewrite is necessary since a new and separate non-profit will now hold the charter from the State Board of Education.
- Shortening the name of the charter school from The Carter G. Woodson School of Challenge to simply The Carter G. Woodson School.

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Recommendations:

The Office of Charter Schools recommends that the State Board of Education approve these charter amendments as presented.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION AGENDA

**GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS
(Ms. Patricia Willoughby, Chair)**

DISCUSSION

GCS 1 – Criteria for Endorsements to High School Diplomas

Policy Implications: Senate Bill 14

Presenter(s): Dr. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support) and Ms. Jo Anne Honeycutt (Director, Career and Technical Education)

Description:

Recently passed Senate Bill 14 requires the State Board of Education to establish, implement, and determine the impact of adding college, career, and college and career endorsements to high school diplomas. The endorsements should reflect that area of focus of high school graduates and must consider courses completed, overall grade point average, and other criteria that the State Board may choose.

Recommendations:

State Board of Education members are asked to review and provide input on the proposed endorsements.

Discussion/Comments:

- GCS Committee Chair Patricia Willoughby noted a thorough discussion of this item during the GCS Committee meeting on Thursday. This item will return for Action in May.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will return for action at the May 2013 meeting. (See Attachment GCS 1)

**21ST CENTURY PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(Mr. John Tate, Vice Chair)**

DISCUSSION

TCP 1 – Proposed Remodel of the Superintendent Program Approval Process

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-B-002

Presenter(s): Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support), Dr. Lynne Johnson (Director, Educator Effectiveness Division, Academic

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Services and Instructional Support), and Dr. Rachel McBroom (Director, Educator Preparation, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

Description:

In January 2008, the State Board of Education approved a new program approval process. This process focuses on outcomes, rather than inputs, eliminates barriers and obstacles that do not ensure quality, and allows greater institutional flexibility based on increased rigor and accountability.

Educator preparation programs leading to teacher and school executive licensure have completed the process and are aligned with State Board adopted professional standards and evaluation instruments. The proposed remodeling of educator preparation programs leading to superintendent licensure will align these programs with the North Carolina Standards for superintendents and evaluation rubric.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to review the program approval process.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Vice Chair John Tate explained that there was a thorough discussion of this item during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will return for action at the May 2013 meeting. (See Attachment TCP 1)

DISCUSSION

TCP 2 – Educator Effectiveness Policies for School Year 2012-13

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCP-C-006; APA # 16 NCAC 61.0504

Presenter(s): Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support), Dr. Lynne Johnson (Director, Educator Effectiveness Division, Academic Services and Instructional Support), and Ms. Jennifer Preston (Race to the Top Project Coordinator for Educator Effectiveness, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

Description:

In March 2012, the State Board of Education approved the components of the sixth standard of the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation System and the eighth standard of the North Carolina School Executive Evaluation System for school year 2011-12. The sixth and eighth standard ratings for school year 2011-12 are baseline data only; they are not included in the three years of data required for a teacher or school executive to receive an overall status of in need of improvement, effective, or highly effective.

Based on data analysis of 2011-12 sixth and eighth standard ratings and feedback from educators, the Department of Public Instruction recommends the following adjustments to the sixth and eighth standard components for school year 2012-13:

- **Sixth standard based only on individual teacher's students' growth.** During school year 2011-12, the inclusion of school-wide growth lowered the sixth standard ratings of thousands of high-performing teachers working in low-performing schools. To avoid this unintended consequence and remove policy barriers to the movement of highly effective teachers to low-performing schools, the Department of Public Instruction recommends that the sixth standard for school year 2012-13 is based only on the growth value derived from the students for whose growth a teacher is directly responsible.
- **School-wide growth value used for principals to include all available student growth data.** During school year 2011-12, the school-wide growth value used to determine a school executive's eighth standard rating was based only on results of the End-of-Grade and End-of-Course assessments. School executives have requested that the Career and Technical Education Post-Assessments and Measures of Student Learning be included in the calculation of school-wide growth so that the value is more reflective of student learning across all grades and content areas.

The Department of Public Instruction originally presented this item for discussion at the March 2013 State Board of Education meeting. Given the complexity of this policy area, the State Board of Education will continue discussion at the April 2013 meeting.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the recommended components for the sixth and eighth standards of the North Carolina Teacher Evaluation System and North Carolina School Executive Evaluation System, respectively.

Discussion/Comments:

- TCP Committee Vice Chair John Tate noted a thorough discussion of this item during the TCP Committee meeting on Wednesday specifically as it relates to unintended consequences. This item will return for action in May.
- There was no further discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will return for action at the May 2013 meeting. (See Attachment TCP 2)

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEMS BUSINESS/FINANCE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT (Mr. Kevin Howell, Chair)

ACTION

TCS 1 – Criteria for RttT Bonus Payments to Certified Personnel in Persistently Low-Performing Schools

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCS-T-001; Race to the Top Implementation

Presenter(s): Ms. Alexis Schauss (Director, School Business Division) and Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Academic Services and Instructional Support)

Description:

North Carolina's approved Race to the Top (RttT) plan includes the payment of bonuses to certified staff members in persistently low-performing schools whose students achieve higher than expected growth. These 118 schools receive support from the state's District and School Transformation Division. This policy defines the eligible schools, criteria for eligible certified staff members, and the retention requirement for the bonus payments. The policy does not authorize the payments of any bonuses. Payments will be made after the State Board of Education has approved the results of the 2012-13 State Testing Program.

Policy Changes:

During the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years, the state awarded bonuses to eligible certified staff members on the basis of school-wide growth as determined by results from the ABC growth model. In accordance with the state's RttT plan, the bonus program adds teacher-level incentives for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years.

In 2012-13 and 2013-14, all eligible certified staff members in a school that receives a value-added school composite in the "Exceeds Expected Growth" range will still receive an RttT bonus payment of no more than \$1,500. In these schools, eligible teachers who receive an individual value-added teacher composite in the "Exceeds Expected Growth" range will receive an additional bonus payment of no more than \$500 above the \$1,500 payment made on the basis of the school value-added composite, for a total payment of no more than \$2,000.

In schools where eligible staff members do not receive a bonus payment, as a result of a value-added school composite that does not reach the "Exceeds Expected Growth" range, eligible teachers who receive an individual value-added teacher composite in the "Exceeds Expected Growth" range will receive a bonus payment of no more than \$2,000.

The state will now use the State Board of Education-approved growth model (the Education Value-Added Assessment System, or EVAAS) to measure student growth.

Recommendations:

Staff recommend that the State Board of Education approve the policy around Race to the Top bonus payments for persistently low-performing schools.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

<p><i>Upon motion by <u>Mr. Kevin Howell</u>, and seconded by <u>Mr. John Tate</u>, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the policy around Race to the Top bonus payments to certified personnel in persistently low-performing schools. (See Attachment TCS 1)</i></p>
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ACTION

TCS 2 – Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-121.1; SBE Policy # TCS-B-005; Section 300.167-300.169 of federal regulations under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Presenter(s): Dr. Angela Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology, and Accountability Services) and Mrs. Sherry H. Thomas (Interim Director, Exceptional Children Division)

Description:

The Council is established in federal and state law as an Advisory Council to the State Board of Education. Its establishment is set forth in Section 300.167-300.169 of the federal regulations, Section 1412(a)(21) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 2004) and Section 115C-121.1 of North Carolina General Statutes. The Council advises the State Board of Education on unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities.

Legislation requires that the majority of the members of the Council must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. The Council shall represent the various interests of the groups concerned with the education of children with disabilities, including gender, ethnic diversity, and representation from across the state.

In accordance with State Board of Education policy, the Council has 25 appointed members. Two members are appointed by the Governor, two by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, two by the Speaker of the House, fourteen by the State Board of Education, and five members referred to as state agency representatives are designated by federal regulations. Terms for state agency members are governed by virtue of their position. The term of appointments for all members except those appointed by the State Board of Education is for two years. State Board of Education appointments are for four-year terms with no person serving more than two consecutive four-year terms.

There are currently two vacant appointments:

- 1) There is a vacant appointment that represents Charter Schools. The vacancy is due to the expiration of the term limit. Ms. Susan Humbert is in agreement to serve a second four-year term to represent Charter Schools.
- 2) There is also one vacancy to represent parents of children with disabilities. The State Board of Education was asked to submit an appointment recommendation for a parent of a child(ren) with disabilities.

Currently, District 7 is not represented on the Council, and the Council is seeking greater gender and race diversity.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to approve a second four-year term of Ms. Susan Humbert (appointment term 7/01/13-6/30/17) and the State Board of Education appointment recommendation to fill the vacant position of a parent of a child(ren) with disabilities. The appointment term for this position is until June 30, 2016; subject to future renewal.

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Discussion/Comments:

- TCS Committee Chair Kevin Howell recommended that the Board defer action on this item until the May meeting. He explained that while it is a reappointment for Ms. Susan Humbert, her appointment term does not begin until July 1. He explained that Board member Alcorn will provide a recommendation from District 7. Therefore, Mr. Howell suggested waiting until the May meeting to take action on this item.
- There was no further discussion.

This item was presented for discussion in March, and was returned for action in April; however, no action was taken. This item will return for action at the May 2013 meeting. (See Attachment TCP 1)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

TCS 3 – Proposed Change to State Benefits Manual 3.1.3(d), Use of Annual Leave, to Comply with Current North Carolina Law

Policy Implications: General Statute §115C-316, Session Law 2012-142, Section 7.14; SBE Policy # TCP-D-003; APA # 16 NCAC 06C.0401

Presenter(s): Ms. Lou Ann Phillips (Director, Human Resource Management Division), Ms. Joan Crump (HR Consultant, Human Resource Management Division), and Ms. Katie Cornetto (SBE Staff Attorney/Legal Advisor, State Board of Education)

Description:

Consistent with Session Law 2012-145 (HB 950, Section 7.14), the legislature amended the law permitting instructional employees who require substitutes and work 11 or 12 months in year-round schools to use annual vacation leave on days students are in attendance with prior approval of the principal if permitted by local board policy. The North Carolina State Benefits Manual § 3.1.3(d) must be updated to reflect the recent change in the law. Section 3.1.3(d) also includes a prohibition on the use of annual vacation leave by only one group of non-instructional personnel (bus drivers) which is unsupported by law.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the SBE: (1) adopt the changes to the State Benefits Manual in Section 3.1.3(d) consistent with the changes in HB 950 and (2) initiate the repeal of 16 NCAC 06C.0401, which is outdated and obsolete.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. Kevin Howell, and seconded by Ms. Patricia Willoughby, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt the changes to the State Benefits Manual, consistent with the changes in HB 950, and initiate the repeal of 16 NCAC 06C.040, which is outdated and obsolete. (See Attachment TCS 3)

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DISCUSSION

TCS 4 – Teacher and Other Public School Certified Personnel Salary

Policy Implications: N/A

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial, Business and Technology Services) and Ms. Alexis Schauss (Director, School Business Division)

Description:

North Carolina's current state salary schedule uses three data points about a teacher to assign a salary: the teacher's number of years of experience, level of education, and whether or not the teacher has earned National Board certification. Districts may then supplement the state salary schedule through the use of local funds.

The teacher pay freeze since 2008-09 has had significant consequences on the level of pay and the structure of pay for North Carolina teachers.

- The starting salary for a teacher with a Bachelor's degree in North Carolina is \$30,800 and it remains the same through the 5th year of teaching.
- It takes a teacher 35 years to reach the top of the salary schedule.
- Average teacher compensation has decreased \$2,500 since 2008-09. North Carolina is ranked 46th in the nation in average compensation for teachers and 10th out of the 12 southeastern states. (NEA Rankings and Estimates)
- There is no incentive to teach in the most challenging schools or take on additional responsibilities.
- There is no state level recruiting tool to fill vacant hard-to-staff positions.
- There is no differentiation pay to acknowledge teachers who are highly effective.

Current Legislation

Current legislation (SL2012-142 Section 7A.10) allows LEAs to develop a plan to pay teachers based on:

- Student achievement
- Additional academic responsibilities
- Assignment to a hard-to-staff school
- Assignment to a hard-to-staff subject area

This item presents different concepts for teacher salary structures for the future, each with a varying degree of state versus local control.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the recommended concept for teacher salaries.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will return for action at the May 2013 meeting. (See Attachment TCS 4)

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DISCUSSION

TCS 5 – NCVPS Advisory Board Membership

Policy Implications: SBE Policy # TCS-B-002

Presenter(s): Dr. Tracy Weeks (Executive Director, Financial, NC Virtual Public School)

Description:

Article III (d) of the North Carolina Virtual Public School Advisory Board by-laws states that new board members will be nominated by the current board members or NCVPS representatives then presented to the SBE for approval. Article II (a) of the North Carolina Virtual Public School Advisory Board by-laws states that the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) shall approve nominations for members of the NCVPS Advisory Board.

Recommendations:

The State Board of Education is asked to approve the nomination for Timothy Rogers for new membership to the North Carolina Virtual Public School Advisory Board.

Discussion/Comments:

- There was no discussion.

This item is presented for discussion in April and will return for action at the May 2013 meeting. (See Attachment TCS 5)

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT (Mr. John Tate, Vice Chair)

ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 1 – Voluntary Relinquishment of the Charter for The STEAM Academy of Winston-Salem

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-238.29G; SBE Policy # TCS-U-006; and Section 24 of the signed Charter Agreement

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services), Ms. Alexis Schauss (Director, Division of School Business) and Dr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

Description:

At the March 2013 meeting of the State Board of Education, information was presented to the State Board as New Business regarding the financial situation of three charter schools. One charter school, The STEAM Academy of Winston-Salem, has not only experienced a significant enrollment decline but has also seen a significant increase in the school's debts.

In October 2011, the State Board of Education approved a “rebranding” of this school as they partnered with a management company that would grow their student enrollments, thereby increasing funding, while improving their overall academic performance. Since that time, the charter school secured an operating line of credit for \$400,000; however, as of August 15, 2012, they have defaulted on that loan.

Student enrollment has continued to decline while their financial debts have continued to increase even further. The information below highlights the Average Daily Membership for the charter school over the last seven years:

- 2006-07: 379 students
- 2007-08: 352 students (the school had a positive general fund balance of \$439,395)
- 2008-09: 320 students
- 2009-10: 170 students (the school had a positive general fund balance of \$408,634)
- 2010-11: 153 students (the school had a positive general fund balance of \$208,471)
- 2011-12: 111 students (the school had a negative general fund balance of \$704,449)
- 2012-12: 102 students

The audit for the 2011-12 fiscal year labeled this precarious financial situation as a “Going Concern” for the charter school. The “Going Concern” is due to the charter school’s three-year history of expenditures exceeding revenues by significant figures and the above-mentioned enrollment decline that exacerbates this issue. The information below presents that financial picture:

- 2009-10: expenditures exceeded revenues by \$125,626
- 2010-11: expenditures exceeded revenues by \$200,163
- 2011-12: expenditures exceeded revenues by \$912,920

Further, the charter school also received a letter from the State and Local Government Finance Division on February 25, 2013. That letter, which was received by the Department of Public Instruction the first week of March, clearly states: “the charter school has serious financial problems.”

On March 12, 2013, the Office of Charter Schools notified representatives from The STEAM Academy that the State Board of Education would consider initiating revocation of the school’s charter. The Board of Directors for The STEAM Academy of Winston-Salem met on March 21, 2013, and considered the charter school’s financial status. They voted to voluntarily relinquish their charter effective June 30, 2013.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education accept the voluntary relinquishment of the charter for The STEAM Academy of Winston-Salem.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Vice Chair John Tate shared that the LFI Committee held considerable discussion during its meeting on Wednesday relative to The STEAM Academy’s financial condition and revocation issues. The STEAM Academy has voluntarily relinquished its charter.
- Vice Chairman Collins recused himself from discussion and voting on this matter.
- There was no further discussion.

<p><i>Upon motion by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by State Treasurer Janet Cowell, the State Board voted to accept the voluntary relinquishment of The STEAM Academy’s charter due to financial concerns. Vice Chairman Collins recused himself from the vote. (See Attachment LFI 1)</i></p>
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ACTION ON FIRST READING

LFI 2 – Initiate Revocation of the Children’s Village Academy

Policy Implications: General Statute § 115C-238.29G; SBE Policy # TCS-U-006; Section 24 of the signed Charter Agreement

Presenter(s): Mr. Philip Price (Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Business Services), Ms. Alexis Schauss (Director, Division of School Business) and Dr. Joel Medley (Director, Office of Charter Schools)

Description:

At the March 2013 meeting of the State Board of Education, information was presented to the State Board as New Business regarding the financial situation of three charter schools. One charter school, The Children’s Village Academy, has experienced cash flow problems and a significant increase in the school’s debts but the student population of the school has recently grown.

The charter school has seen significant growth in the negative, unrestricted General Fund balance in recent years. The trend indicates that the charter school’s financials were trending toward a fund balance; however, as shown by the information below, that trend has been reversed:

- 2008: (\$91,076)
- 2009: (\$88,246)
- 2010: (\$80,339)
- 2011: (\$142,676)
- 2012: (\$179,172)

The audit for the 2011-12 fiscal year included a “Going Concern” disclosure due to the charter school’s negative fund balance, decline in assets, and cash flow problems. Below, brief data is shared for each of those categories:

- Total Net Assets have declined \$108,259 since June 30, 2012, from \$161,513 down to \$57,436.
- Cash flow problems are continued in the current academic year. As of June 30, 2012, the charter school had a bank overdraft of \$25,678.
- The funded Average Daily Membership of The Children’s Village Academy has increased 52 students (33%) from 2009-10 to 2012-13. Rather than improving the overall financial situation of the school, as should be expected, the financial picture has worsened.

G.S. 115C-238.29G enumerates the reasons that the State Board of Education “may terminate or not renew a charter,” and these reasons are also incorporated into the signed Charter Agreement. The second rationale for termination of a charter is a schools “failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.” The increasing negative fund balance, cash flow problems, decline of total net assets, and “Going Concern” finding in the audit are evidence that the charter school is not meeting generally accepted standards of fiscal management.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the State Board of Education accept the recommendations of the Department of Public Instruction by initiating revocation of the charter for this school.

Discussion/Comments:

- LFI Committee Vice Chair John Tate stated that he would like this item removed from the action agenda until the May meeting. He explained that correspondence has surfaced that Dr. Medley has not had sufficient opportunity to share with the Board so that Board members can make an informed decision.
- There was no further discussion.

Upon motion by Mr. John Tate, and seconded by State Treasurer Janet Cowell, the State Board voted unanimously to defer action on the revocation decision of The Children's Village Academy charter until the May State Board meeting. (See Attachment LFI 2)

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**Announcements**

Chairman Cobey reminded Board members that they are invited to attend the Principal of the Year luncheon at the Umstead Hotel immediately following this meeting. The Principal of the Year Banquet is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Next month Board members are invited to attend the Teacher of the Year luncheon on Thursday, May 2, following the Board meeting. He asked Board members to RSVP to the invitation to the Board office.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought before the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Indicating no other business, Chairman Cobey requested a motion to adjourn. Upon motion by State Treasurer Janet Cowell, and seconded by Mr. John Tate, Board members voted unanimously to adjourn the April 3-4, 2013, meeting of the State Board of Education.